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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. *FLD*
157

COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

DATE DISR. 29 September 1949

SUBJECT Minefield Along the Latvian Coast near Ventspils

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PLACE 25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]
25X1X

1. Mines were again planted along the Latvian coast near VENTSPILS between August 1948 and March 1949. A large ice-breaker entered the VENTSPILS port twice during the winter of 1948/1949 and each time discharged about six hundred mines of unknown type at the cannery buildings, which had formerly been used as mine depot.
2. Two torpedo boats (two stacks, two guns and six torpedo tubes each) which were stationed in VENTSPILS, repeatedly left the port, each with about 20 mines aboard. Most of the mines were laid north of VENTSPILS, from two to five nautical miles off the coast.
3. The old approach lane to the VENTSPILS port, i.e., a half-nautical-mile lane running about 144 degrees (true course), remained open, but the 60 VENTSPILS fishing boats were ordered to fish only outside a 5-nautical-mile zone off the coast. Eight police boats (30 feet long, 40-HP Diesel engine, two-man crew) have been employed to keep vessels out of the mine-infested waters since August 1948.
4. Two fishing boats struck mines and sank in September 1948. A gun-boat, about two hundred feet long and armed with four or six medium caliber antiaircraft guns, was damaged by hitting a mine and was towed into the port. The gunboat was later towed to LEPAYA.

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Comment: Although the mine fields off VENTSPILS may have been laid during the war, it is noted that police boats and naval vessels with mines aboard were observed only after August 1948.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. *4*

NO CHANGE in Class.

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